



{In Archive} RE: Pineview Estates subdivision south of Gardnerville, NV

Dave McNeil to: Eric Byous

12/19/2005 08:52 AM

From: Dave McNeil <dmcneil@ndep.nv.gov>

To: Eric Byous/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,

History: This message has been replied to.

Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

Eric:

Thank you for your reply. Fyi, I received an additional phone message from the complainant over the weekend on Saturday afternoon - before the rain/snow hit Sat evening - that said "Its back to flowing again."

Glad to hear you will be stopping by the site in January.

Merry Christmas,
Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: Byous.Eric@epamail.epa.gov [
<mailto:Byous.Eric@epamail.epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, December 19, 2005 6:46 AM

To: Dave McNeil

Cc: Samuel Jackson; Tansey Smith; Tom Dunkelman;
albright.david@epamail.epa.gov;
phillips.gregory@epamail.epa.gov

Subject: Re: Pineview Estates subdivision south of Gardnerville, NV

Mr. McNeil,

Thank you for notifying me of the complaint you received and the follow-up you performed. I received that complaint myself on Friday and was unable to immediately follow-up with a site visit. I'm glad to hear you didn't detect any public health or operational issues on your site visit.

There had been a problem in the past associated with a drainfield located next to the stormwater basin. However, Pineview Estates has two new onsite wastewater treatment systems, and a drainfield up the hill (to the south) has replaced that formerly problematic drainfield. The new treatment systems were required under a Class V Underground Injection Control permit we issued to PTP, Inc. (Pineview Estate's development company and Mr. Sanderson's employer), and I am not aware of any system failures or surfacing of wastewater since the new treatment systems went on-line (in May and June '05).

I had planned on making a site visit to Pineview Estate's during their next monthly sampling round in the beginning of January. I will still do so and will let you know if I find any wastewater flow off of Pineview Estates or other major issues. We will also notify

NDEP of any major issues if they occur in the future.

Sincerely,
Eric Byous

.....
Eric Byous
415.972.3531
fax: 415.947.3549
USEPA, Region 9
Ground Water Office (WTR-9)
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/uic.html>
-----Dave McNeil <dmcneil@ndep.nv.gov> wrote: -----

To: Eric Byous/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Dave McNeil <dmcneil@ndep.nv.gov>
Date: 12/16/2005 10:29AM
cc: Samuel Jackson <jacksons@ndep.nv.gov>, Tansey Smith
<tsmith@ndep.nv.gov>, Tom Dunkelman
<tdunkelm@ndep.nv.gov>
Subject: Pineview Estates subdivision south of Gardnerville, NV

Mr. Byous:

I was given your name by an associate in my office. I'm contacting you because I recently received a call from an individual that lives in close proximity to the referenced subdivision. He has alleged the existence of a very strong sewage odor and the existence of an effluent leak from the subdivision's disposal field into a storm water catch basin located just below, near the intersection of Hwy 395 and the subdivision entrance street. I visited the site yesterday for the purpose of inspecting for any off-site discharge of effluent to lands of the state (such as the Hwy 395 right-of-way). I was joined in my inspection by Mr. Briscoe Sanderson who identified himself as an EPA-certified Water Master. I clearly stated to Mr. Briscoe the limit to NDEP's interest and jurisdiction with respect to the received complaint.

Mr. Sanderson was very giving of his time and in fact gave me a walking tour of the subdivision's new septic disposal system. I did not identify any surface discharge on the top surface of the field. However, the source of the alleged leakage claims that I missed it, claiming that the discharge is coming out of the end wall of the disposal field about 3' up the bank from the current catch basin water level, about mid way between the basin inlet pipe and the basin berm that parallels Hwy 395. I detected no sewage odor in the area but temperature at the time was in the high 20s or low 30s and there was a sheet of ice on top of the water in the catch basin.

As I could find no evidence of off-site discharge, there is no basis of continued interest in this matter by NDEP. The vast majority of complaints I investigate turn out to be unfounded and often lodged due to a grudge of some kind. Regardless, given EPA's jurisdiction with respect to this subdivision, NDEP believes it is appropriate that I bring this matter to your attention for follow up as you see necessary.

Dave McNeil
Compliance Officer
Enforcement Branch
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
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